



Why Cannabis Is the Future of Medicine

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The future of medicine rests on the the fundamental right we all have to use things that spring from the Earth naturally as healing agents. Why should cannabis, used for at least 10000 years by humankind to alleviate suffering, be excluded from this inexorable mandate?

The politics of cannabis are exceedingly complex, and yet the truth is simple: this freely growing plant heals the human body – not to mention provides food, fuel, clothing and shelter, if only we will let it perform its birthright. [In a previous article](#), we investigated the strange fact that the human body is in many ways pre-designed, or as it were, pre-loaded with a receptiveness to cannabis' active compounds -- cannabinoids -- thanks to its well documented endocannabinoid system.

But the medical-industrial complex in the U.S. does not want you to use these freely growing compounds. They threaten its very business model and existence. Which is why it synergizes so naturally with the burgeoning privatized prison sector, which now has the dubious title of having the **highest incarceration rate in the world**. The statistics don't lie:

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behind bars. Presently, the prison population in America consists of more **than six million people, a number exceeding the amount of prisoners held in the gulags of the former Soviet Union** at any point in its history."

According to a recent [Al-Jeezera editorial](#), "One explanation for the boom in the prison population is the mandatory sentencing imposed for drug offences and the "tough on crime" attitude that has prevailed since the 1980s."

Cannabis/marijuana is presently on the DEA's Schedule 1 list. Since 1972, **cannabis has been listed on the Schedule I of the Controlled Substances Act**, the most tightly restricted category reserved for drugs which have "no currently accepted medical use". Opioids, stimulants, psychedelics and a few antidepressants now populate this list of substances that can put you in jail for possessing without a prescription.

The notion that marijuana has no 'medicinal benefits' is preposterous, actually. Since time immemorial it has been used as a panacea ('cure-all'). In fact, as far back as 2727 B.C., cannabis was recorded in the Chinese pharmacopoeia as an effective medicine, and evidence for its use as a food, textile and presumably as a healing agent stretch back even further, to 12 BC. [1]

When it comes to cannabis' medical applications, cannabis' 'healing properties' is a loaded term. In fact, it is extremely dangerous, as far as the medical industrial complex goes, who has the FDA/FTC to enforce it's mandate: anything that prevents, diagnoses, treats or cures a disease must be an FDA approved drug by law, i.e. pharmaceutical agents which often have 75 or more adverse effects for each marketed and approved "therapeutic" effect.

Indeed, the dominant, drug-based medical system does not even acknowledge the body's healing abilities, opting for a view that looks at most bodily suffering as fatalistic, primarily genetically based, and resulting from dysfunction in the mechanical design of a highly entropic 'bag of enzymes and proteins' destined to suffer along the trajectory of time.

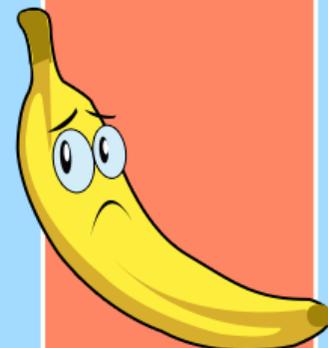
And so, an at least two trillion dollar a year industry stands between you and access to the disease alleviating properties of this humble plant.

As Emerson said, "a weed is an herb whose virtues have yet to be discovered," and yet, by this definition, cannabis is not a weed, but given that it has been extensively researched and used for thousands of years for a wide range of health conditions, it should be considered and respected as a medicinal herb and food. Sadly, the fact that the whole herb is non-patentable is the main reason why it is still struggling to gain approval from the powers that be.

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He founded Greenmedinfo.com in 2008 in order to provide the world an open access, evidence-based resource supporting natural and integrative modalities. It is widely recognized as the most widely referenced health resource of its kind.

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